

Shenandoah National Park

Backcountry Camping Trip Guide



Trip Name: Whiteoak Canyon and Nicholson Hollow

Description: Multiple waterfalls, park history, a wilderness hollow

Entry: Berry Hollow Boundary (Central District; East side; Route 600 - Syria)

Exit: Berry Hollow Boundary (Central District; East side; Route 600 - Syria)

Map(s): PATC #10 Central District

Level: Experienced

Total Length: 16.1 miles

Day One

Campsite: Nicholson Hollow Trail - backcountry

7.8 to 8.8 miles

Park on the boundary at Whiteoak Canyon Parking.

Hike uphill on Whiteoak Canyon Trail 3.0 miles.

Turn right on Skyland Big Meadows Horse Trail and hike 1.2 miles.

Turn right on Old Rag Fire Road hiking 0.8 mile.

Turn left onto Corbin Mountain Trail and hike 0.6 mile.

Turn left onto Indian Run Trail, descending 1.7 miles.

Turn right onto Nicholson Hollow Trail, hiking at least 0.5 mile.

Look for a place to camp in the next 1 to 2 miles.

Day Two

6.3 to 8.3 miles

Continue hiking down Nicholson Hollow Trail another 1.7 to 3.7 miles, exiting the park.

Turn right on SR 600 and hike about 0.3 mile.

Re-enter the Park on Weakly Hollow Fire Road, hiking 2.5 miles.

Weakly Hollow Road ends at the intersection with Old Rag Road and continues as Berry Hollow Road – bear left and then right for Berry Hollow.

Hike down Berry Hollow Road 0.8 mile to a gate, bear left another mile on paved road to return to your car.

Notes

The Hughes River, which runs through Nicholson Hollow, can run very high in the spring or after heavy rains (knee to waist high). The trail crosses the river several times, so be prepared. The plus side is the excellent swimming holes that exist even in drought.

Whiteoak Canyon is a beautiful place, but currently receives extraordinarily high use on weekends. Not only does this make for unpleasantly crowded camping, it damages the natural resource as increasingly large areas are impacted. This trip takes you through the canyon in the morning before the crowds gather, then you will camp in beautiful Nicholson Hollow.
